

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 06354 231641Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 /077 W

-----093675 231644Z /40

O R 231610Z NOV 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9652

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 6354

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJECT: DEATH OF STEVE BIKO: NOV. 22, 23 INQUEST
PROCEEDINGS

REF: PRETORIA 6282

IN NOV. 22 AFTERNOON AND NOV. 23 MORNING SESSIONS,
BIKO FAMILY ADVOCATE SIDNEY KENTRIDGE, CLOSELY QUESTIONED
PORT ELIZABETH CHIEF DISTRICT SURGEON DR. BENJAMIN TUCKER
ABOUT INCONSISTENCIES IN HIS VARIOUS STATEMENTS ON BIKO'S
HEALTH. KENTRIDGE SUGGESTED THAT TUCKER DURING HIS
EXAMINATIONS OF BIKO HAD NOT ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT
BIKO'S LIP INJURY OR THE POSSIBILITY OF A HEAD INJURY
IN ORDER TO AVOID EMBARRASSING THE SECURITY POLICE.
KENTRIDGE ALSO ATTACKED THE VERACITY OF AFFIDAVITS
SIGNED BY TUCKER AFTER BIKO'S DEATH PERTAINING TO
THE DETAINEE'S CONDITION PRIOR TO THE DECEASED'S
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TRANSFER TO PRETORIA. TUCKER CONCEDED THAT THE
STATEMENT IN HIS ORIGINAL AFFIDAVIT AFTER THE DEATH
THAT "THERE WAS NO POSITIVE SIGN TO INDICATE ORGANIC
DISEASES" MIGHT HAVE BEEN "POORLY WORDED." KENTRIDGE
ARGUED THAT TUCKER HAD REASON TO SUSPECT THAT SOMETHING
WAS SERIOUSLY WRONG WITH BIKO, INCLUDING TUCKER'S
PRIOR KNOWLEDGE THAT BIKO HAD SHOWN A PLANTER REFLEX

(UPTURNED TOE) AT AN EARLIER EXAMINATION. TUCKER
ADMITTED RELUCTANTLY THAT BIKO HAD SHOWN CLASSICAL
SYMPTOMS OF BRAIN DAMAGE. KENTRIDGE ALSO QUESTIONED
WHY TUCKER HAD NOT STRENUOUSLY OBJECT TO THE DECISION
TO HAVE BIKO TAKEN TO PRETORIA BY ROAD. TUCKER
CONCEDED THAT SECURITY INTERESTS HAD BEEN PLACED
ABOVE THE INTEREST OF HIS PATIENT.
BOWDLER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEATHS, COURT PROCEEDINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 23-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR06354
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770435-0129
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771125/aaaaavhc.tel
Line Count: 70
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c7bb1e13-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 PRETORIA 6282
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 474646
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEATH OF STEVE BIKO: NOV. 22, 23 INQUEST PROCEEDINGS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, SHUM, SF, (BIKO, STEVE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c7bb1e13-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009